

CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-13.

14. (Currently amended) A method for inserting an electrode into tissue by inserting ~~the electrode of claim 1~~ a slowly implantable electrode comprising a shape-memory polymer coated electrode capable of being slowly implanted into brain tissue.

15. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said inserting step includes inserting the electrode into tissue and slowly resorbing a coating on the electrode into the brain.

16. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, wherein said inserting step includes slowly placing the electrode within the tissue to be treated.

17. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 14, further including altering surface structure of the electrode.

18. (Currently amended) A method of minimizing trauma and astrocytic scarring by slowly inserting ~~the electrode of claim 1~~ a slowly implantable electrode comprising a shape-memory polymer coated electrode capable of being slowly implanted into body tissue, thereby minimizing trauma and astrocytic scarring.

19. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein said inserting step includes inserting the electrode into body tissue and slowly resorbing a coating on the electrode into the tissue.

Please cancel claims 20-29

30. (Previously presented) A method of minimizing trauma and astrocytic scarring by slowly inserting a slowly implantable electrode comprising a shape-memory polymer coated electrode and having a therapeutic coating into body tissue and allowing the

Applicants : Dudley Finch et al.

Appl. No. : 10/577,962

Page No. : 3

body to absorb the therapeutic coating to minimize trauma and astrocytic scarring.